

placed a bomb on board, but a nation-wide investigation, costing an estimated \$60-million, has left the crime still unsolved.

According to Soft Target, some senior CSIS officials and one RCMP officer eventually concluded that an Indian intelligence service was probably the real culprit. After all, a number of persons associated with the Indian government had cancelled their reservations on the doomed flight. And why did the Indian consul-general in Toronto have a near-perfect account of what happened so soon after the event?

Moreover, a similar bombing had occurred at the Madras airport in southern India about a year earlier, most probably caused by the Third agency, an Indian intelligence group created in the early eighties to win support for Indira Gandhi's government by encouraging Sikh extremists in Punjab. One group at CSIS concluded from the exclusively circumstantial evidence available that most likely the Third agency ordered the bombing, knowing that suspicion would fall on Sikhs generally and Canadian ones in particular. Another CSIS group inferred that the planting of a bomb was not authorized in New Delhi, but originated solely with local security agents.

Some Canadians became convinced that Talwinder Singh Parmar, head of a tiny extremist Sikh group based in Vancouver, the Babbar Khalsa, was the Air-India murderer. The RCMP, say Kashmeri and McAndrew, eventually decided that Parmar was an agent of the government of India. They query why, among numerous contradictions, a major financial backer of Parmar in Vancouver received a \$2 million loan from the State Bank of India (Canada). By early 1989, Parmar had disappeared, and Joe Clark finally ordered several Indian diplomats to leave. Until then, as detailed carefully in Soft Target, Clark and his officials had accommodated the Indian government repeatedly in ways that seemed to have the effect of poisoning the minds of Canadians against Sikhs.

This controversial book examines some important issues and is largely convincing. All who want Ottawa to do the correct thing for correct reasons in both domestic and foreign policy should read it.

IS AMERICORPS WORTH KEEPING?

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I think you will find Susan Molinari's article on AmeriCorps informative:

IS AMERICORPS WORTH KEEPING?

(By Susan Molinari)

Volunteerism is a tremendously American tradition. Few of us, however, would characterize a volunteer as someone who is paid (more than minimum wage) receives medical benefits and child care allowances, and gets a \$5,000 education stipend.

Welcome to the AmeriCorps world of volunteerism.

The Clinton administration's year-old AmeriCorps program is riddled with problems, not the least of which is that it's too expensive to administer. That's why the Senate followed the House's lead and voted on Tuesday to completely de-fund AmeriCorps. The government simply must stop making financial commitments it can't keep, especially when we have to rob other needed programs to do so.

OTHER PROGRAMS SUFFER

Despite that fact that we were able to fund the 20,000 AmeriCorps "volunteers," we could not, for instance, fully fund either the Pell Grant or the Stafford Loan program, both of which help thousands more.

For every AmeriCorps participant who got education dollars, five students could get Pell Grants. Factor in other, noneducation costs for one volunteer to participate in AmeriCorps, and the number of Pell Grants that could be funded jumps to 18.

Some of AmeriCorps' high costs are directly attributable to the way this "volunteer" program is administered. The non-partisan, independent General Accounting Office estimates that it costs \$27,000 per participant to run the program, and this figure jumps to \$33,000 when the dropout rate is factored in.

AmeriCorps' overhead, including \$2 million in payments to a public relations firm, accounts for some of the more than \$10,000-per-participant cost overruns from the \$17,000 originally estimated. More than half the cost of the program goes to pay for the bureaucrats who administer it.

According to the GAO, the price tag to the federal government for one AmeriCorps volunteer is \$15.30 per hour, including salary, health and child care benefits. This doesn't include the education stipend, training or administrative overhead. When you plug in the money cities, states and private sources kick in, the cost per hour for one volunteer's time jumps to \$19.60, again minus education stipend, training and overhead. Originally, this number was supposed to be \$6.43 per hour.

While government costs soar way over initial projections, private contributions have been much lower than expected. Rather than picking up half the costs, as was promised at the outset, private funds make up only 7% of the cost for each volunteer, the GAO now estimates.

Rather than costly new government bureaucracies, we have a better way to encourage charity and foster community spirit. For decades we have used the tax code to create just such an atmosphere, through deductions for charitable contributions. And we have a better way to fund the education of middle and lower-income students—by fully funding existing programs such as Pell Grants, to the extent resources will allow.

I admire the 20,000 young men and women who have joined AmeriCorps, as I admire the 89.2 million Americans who volunteer—without pay—their 19 billion hours worth of time each year. Trying to encourage volunteerism through a big-government approach, however, does more to encourage bureaucrats than community service.

AmeriCorps participants do worthy work, but the real substance of American-style volunteerism is proven every day by those who are willing to give their time to make others' lives better.

MEDICARE REFORM

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about the subject of Medicare. It is a topic that has been in the headlines and on the news every day now for weeks. It is on the minds of almost every constituent I see. It is among the foremost issues we are addressing here in this body, and definitely, I think it

would be safe to say, is the current major concern of seniors across America.

The GOP has put out a plan to cut Medicare. Based on what is known or perhaps I should say not known in terms of legislative language being unavailable, this plan is one which it seems will have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable of Americans—senior citizens.

In a letter I received from the Families USA Foundation it spoke about how seniors will lose guaranteed health protections that they have today. It spoke about how these individuals will lose out-of-pocket health cost protections at the same time that pending proposals would double Medicare premiums. We're talking about out-of-pocket health costs which already consume more than one-fourth of seniors' incomes.

What this says to me is that something is drastically wrong—that this is not the path to pursue.

Allow me quote from a letter I received this week from a Texas senior:

As a Senior Citizen and drawing Social Security, which I earned, I would like to input my viewpoint on Medicare. I am more fortunate than some of my widow friends in the amount that I get each month, but with the price of living today it is not very much. Out of this Social Security deducts \$46.00 per month and believe me this covers very little, so in order to pay for health care I am forced to take a supplemental policy that costs me \$65.00 per month. If Congress cuts any part of this Medicare care it will force all of us to go on the county medical care for the indigent. Can you imagine what that would do to the whole country if all the people on Medicare had to go that way. Most of us have worked hard all our lives and paid our bills, but what the government has done . . . is unforgivable . . . and NOW they want to put us all on WELFARE.

This is typical of what I am hearing. People are frightened. People are scared. And rightly so.

My party is closely identified with Medicare. Democrats first conceived of Medicare and led the effort to enact the program into law. We have been its champions ever since. This program has been a success, helping to provide health care to millions of Americans who otherwise could not afford it. That is not bad as so many today would have us believe. It is good. If changes need to be made then our goal must be to work together to determine what it is we need to do that is positive and will continue to protect our Nation's seniors. That is what I am wholeheartedly committed to doing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO INCREASE DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS OF SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will restore equity and fairness in the tax treatment of the nation's small business entrepreneurs. The Self-Employed Health Fairness Act amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals to 100% of such costs.

Mr. Speaker, our tax code is fundamentally unfair to the self-employed in its treatment of the deductibility of health insurance. Large corporations enjoy a permanent, 100% deduction for health insurance premiums, while the self-employed business person has previously received only a 25% deduction. Congress enacted legislation this year to make the deduction permanent, and to raise it from 25% to 30% in 1995.

I supported this legislation and was encouraged by its passage. For the sake of fairness, however, we should take the next logical step and raise the deductibility for the self-employed to 100%. We must ask ourselves a very basic and fundamental question: Why should we treat the self-employed small business person differently from a large corporation?

The fact is, small business is, by far, the country's most important motivator for innovation, job creation and economic growth. Creating a successful small business takes guts, determination, and hard work, but it represents the very best of the American dream. I know this firsthand, Mr. Speaker. Both myself and my husband are small business owners. We both have experienced the satisfaction of creating successful small businesses, creating new jobs, and contributing to our community.

However, we have also felt the onerous tax and regulatory burdens that stand in the way of successful small businesses today. Self-employed small business owners face a number of very unique problems, and the disparity in the tax treatment of health insurance cost represents one of the more troublesome of these.

Let's send a message to America's self-employed businessmen and women that they are just as important as big business. Let's restore fairness and equity to the tax code's treatment of the health care expenses of self-employed individuals. I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting this important legislation.

EIGHT ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIKH STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent human rights situation in Punjab. As I have said many times on this floor, The Indian government and Indian armed forces have repeatedly trampled on the human rights of the Sikh majority in this northern province.

The State Department has reported that between 1991 and 1993, the Indian government paid 41,000 cash bounties to policemen for extra judicial killings of Sikh suspects. Human Rights Watch issued a report in 1994 quoting a Punjab police officer as saying that 4,000 to 5,000 Sikhs were tortured at his police station alone. Asia Watch said in one of its many reports on the appalling situation in Punjab that virtually every Sikh being held in prison is tortured.

The Indian government's current reign of terror dates back to the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984. That summer, Indian security forces launched a blistering assault on this holiest of Sikh shrines, along with

38 other Sikh temples, killing an estimated 20,000 Sikhs.

The brutal atrocities committed against the Sikh people led to a strong independence movement throughout Punjab. On October 7, 1987, the five-member Panthic Committee, appointed by all of the major SIKH resistance groups, declared their intention to create an independent Sikh homeland by the name of Khalistan, and created a governing body known as the Council of Khalistan. This October marks the eight anniversary of that declaration.

The President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, resides in Washington DC, and has been a tireless advocate of human rights and self-determination for the Sikhs. Dr. Aulakh has worked with great determination over the last eight years to inform Members of Congress and other government officials of the terrible atrocities being committed against the Sikh people.

The human rights situation has not improved over the last eight years, if anything, it has gotten worse. Earlier this month, an esteemed human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khalra, was abducted from his home after having publicized the murder and cremation of thousands of Sikhs by Indian security forces. Mr. Khalra is reportedly being tortured in prison. Just this week, over 150 of the most distinguished Sikh leaders held a peaceful protest in front of the Governor's mansion to protest Mr. Khalra's detention. All were arrested and harassed.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Indian government in Punjab to begin to respect the basic and fundamental human rights that all human beings deserve—life, liberty, justice and self-determination. It is time for the reign of terror to end. I congratulate Dr. Aulakh and him many colleagues on their dedication and persistence over the last eight years. On this eight anniversary of the declaration of Khalistan, I congratulate all of the Sikh people who have peacefully and quietly stood up for their rights under an oppressive system. My thoughts and prayers are with the families whose sons and daughters have disappeared or been tortured or murdered.

LEGITIMATE BUSINESS EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with my colleague Mr. CARDIN, that would once again allow businesses to deduct the expenses they incur while responding to legislative proposals that can affect their businesses, their communities, and their livelihood. The bill would simply allow businesses to deduct legitimate business expenses incurred in contacting or working with their State representatives.

In 1993, Congress approved the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 which contained a provision that disallowed the deduction of certain business expenses against Federal corporate income taxes. The denial of deductibility of lobbying expenses was proposed as a means of curtailing the activities of special interests here in Washington. Those who advo-

cated this provision made no claim that it was necessary to address any problem at the State level.

Instead of solving a problem, the enactment of this provision has created a major problem at the State level. Most businesses, and especially small business owners, can't afford the time to visit personally with their State legislators to discuss the impact of legislation on their businesses. To make sure their voice is heard in the legislative process, they count on trade associations, to which they pay dues. Of course, the dues are generally deductible as an ordinary and customary expense of doing business.

The problem under the 1993 change is that the portion of trade association dues attributable to lobbying activities by the trade association is no longer deductible. This creates a major record-keeping headache for the association and the small business owner.

The original proposal before the Congress 2 years ago would have applied to local governments as well as State and Federal government. Fortunately, before it was adopted, it was amended to exclude local government from its coverage. That was a significant improvement. The bill Congressman CARDIN and I introduced today will further mitigate the adverse impact of the proposal by exempting State legislatures as well.

As a former State legislator, I know well the value of the input of businesses in the deliberations of State legislatures. With small staffs and limited resources, State legislatures make important use of information provided by local economic interests in considering policy proposals. Additionally, State Governors frequently appoint "Blue Ribbon Commissions" and other advisory groups to recommend legislative solutions to problems. These advisory bodies depend on input from members of the business, professional, and agricultural communities who are knowledgeable about circumstances within the State. The record-keeping requirements and tax penalties associated with the lobbying tax discourages this important participation.

Mr. Speaker, we ought not to be making it harder for Americans to participate in the decision-making process in their State capitols. The denial of a deduction of a legitimate business expense incurred to lobby at the State level is an unwarranted intrusion of the Federal Government on the activity of State governments. At a time when we are attempting to return many responsibilities to the State level, it makes no sense for us to impose obstacles on the ability of State legislatures to gather the information they will need to do their jobs. I would ask our colleagues to join us in restoring this deduction at the State level.

IN HONOR OF ROY L. WINES, JR.

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving husband and father, a civic leader, and a hero, a man whom I revere and am proud to call my dear friend. His name is Roy Wines.

Roy was born and raised in Southampton, NY. His ancestors were of Welsh background